

45

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 96-362-E - ORDER NO. 96-855
DECEMBER 11, 1996

IN RE: Application of Duke Power Company for) ORDER
Approval of the Discontinuation of the) GRANTING
Practice of Supplying Meter Bases.) REQUESTS

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Duke Power Company (Duke or the Company) to modify its Service Regulations in several respects.

First, Duke proposes to discontinue its practice of providing self-contained meter sockets and current transformer enclosures effective March 1, 1997. According to Duke, currently electricians and builders are required to use equipment supplied by Duke which must be acquired at a Duke facility. Further, the electrician/builder must document the location where each piece of equipment will be used. This practice was implemented approximately three years ago when a significant number of Duke meter sockets were found in the service areas of other electric suppliers. The proposed changes allow the builder/electrician the convenience of purchasing the meter sockets or current transformer enclosures at any supplier who wishes to stock such equipment that meets Duke specifications. Duke is requesting a March 1, 1997 implementation date to allow sufficient time to work with

manufacturers, suppliers, builders, and electricians to implement this change. Duke will continue to maintain meter sockets and current transformer enclosures installed prior to March 1, 1997, provided the equipment can be repaired. After March 1, 1997, the customer will be required to provide the meter socket if it needs to be completely replaced.

Duke also proposes to revise Leaf D concerning meter location. Currently there are two places in the service regulations where meter location is referenced. Leaf B includes a statement "The Company... may also specify the location of the meter and the point where the service connection will be made." Leaf D states, "Meters... shall be located... on the customer's structure at a place which is suitable to the Customer, but which meets all of the Company's requirements..." While Duke typically works with customers on a suitable meter location, Duke proposes to delete the words "which is suitable to the Customer" to avoid possible confusion about who has the ultimate responsibility for determining the appropriate meter location.

Duke also proposes to modify the section on Service Interruptions. The section currently describes situations for which Duke is not responsible for damages in the event of a service interruption due to circumstances beyond its control. Duke proposes to add the words "single-phase condition" to clarify that Duke is not responsible for damages as a result of this condition. The electrical code does not currently require the customer to provide protection against such conditions. This

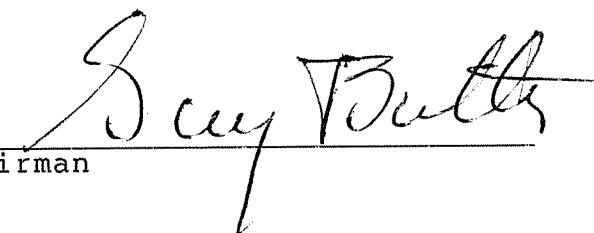
change to the regulations will help clarify that Duke is not responsible and will hopefully encourage customers to provide the necessary protection to avoid damage to their equipment.

The Commission has examined this matter. Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. Section 58-27-870(F), the Commission may allow rates or tariffs to be put into effect without notice and hearing upon Order of the Commission when such rates or tariffs do not require a determination of the entire rate structure and overall rate of return, or when the rates or tariffs do not result in any rate increase to the electrical utility, or when the rates or tariffs are for experimental purposes, or when the rates or tariffs so filed are otherwise necessary to obtain an orderly rate administration. The Commission believes that the changes requested are necessary to obtain an orderly rate administration. Therefore, we do not believe that notice and hearing is necessary for the Commission to consider these matters. The Commission adopts the modifications to the Service Regulations as filed by Duke. The modifications are appropriate, and would seem to allow Duke to better serve its customers.

Duke shall file ten (10) copies of the official modifications to the Service Regulations with this Commission within ten (10) days of its receipt of this Order.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until
further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)